

Doyle
(D. Promani)



HUSTISFORD STATE BANK

P.O. Box 306

Hustisford, WI 53034-0306

Ph. (920) 349-3241 Fax (920) 349-8294

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September 7, 2005

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
San Francisco Regional Office
Director John F. Carter
25 Jessie Street
Ecker Square, Suite 2300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Carter:

This letter is being written with the intent of giving my personal viewpoint concerning the sad fact that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is considering the approval of an application from Walmart to be granted full banking powers to include F.D.I.C. insurance coverage.

Being the C.E.O. of an independent community bank in a village of approximately 1,500 people, there should be no need for me to even have to give my position on this matter. It is certainly no secret that the method of operation used by the mega retailer Walmart is without question the biggest factor by far in the demise of all retail establishments on Main Street in rural America.

A mere 25 years ago, the main street in our community housed no less than three grocery stores, two "butcher shops," two variety/hardware stores, two barber shops, a cheese factory/retail store, our bank, and three taverns. All that remain now are the three taverns, a self-employed beauty shop, our bank, and a number of empty storefronts. The cheese factory/store will be closing at the end of this month after 111 years of operation, and the remaining grocery store, it is predicted, will be gone at the end of this year.

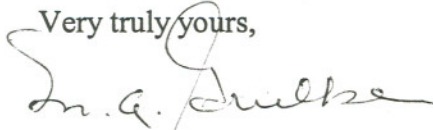
Although blaming Walmart for the demise of the barber shops may be stretching things just a bit, there is no doubt that Walmart has been the primary reason for the death of any retail business in the towns of rural America.

Our bank along with many other small community banks has survived this fate only because of the personal services it provides to its local residents. It should be noted that many of these services and favors are for the benefit of the elderly and shut-ins and have little or nothing to do with matters of banking.

The entrance of Walmart into the world of community banking would most certainly take away any hope for survival of small town community banks, and would certainly also take away from the elderly and shut-ins this precious benefit for living in the small towns of rural America.

I thank you for your time in sharing my views on this very important matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. A. Grulke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

M. A. Grulke,
President